

Appl. No. : **10/722,179**
Filed : **November 25, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 22-26, 30, and 36-37 have been canceled without prejudice and partially as being directed to the claimed invention of the parent application, Application No. 10/682,180 which has been allowed. The remaining claims are all directed to methods specifically using a hydrogen source gas. Due to amendment or cancellation of the claims, an Amendment of the inventorship under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) accompanies this Amendment. Claims 19, 20, 27, and 28 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 31, 33-35, and 38 have been amended to depend from Claim 20. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13-18, 22-26, 30-31, and 33-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xu in view of Zheng. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13-18, 22-26, and 30 have been canceled as described above. Claims 31 and 33-35 have been amended to depend from Claim 20 which has not been rejected on this ground. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Claim 32 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xu in view of Zheng, and further in view of Nemani. Claim 32 depends ultimately from Claim 20 which has not been rejected on this ground. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Claims 3 and 36-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xu in view of Zheng, and further in view of Grill. Claims 3 and 36-37 have been canceled. Claim 38 has been amended to depend from Claim 20 which has not been rejected on this ground. Claims 39-41 depend from Claim 38. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 19-21, and 27-29 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claims 2, 6, 8, and 12 have been canceled as described above (i.e., as being directed to the claimed invention of the parent application, Application No. 10/682,180). Claims 19-20 and 27-28 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 21 and 29 depend from Claims 20 and 28, respectively. Thus, Claims 19-21 and 27-29 are now in condition for allowance. Further, as explained above, Claims 31-35 and 38-41 now depend ultimately from Claim 20 which is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Claims 19-21, 27-29, 31-35, and 38-41 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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